

LONG-TERM CARE AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize November 4–10 as “Long-Term Care Awareness Week.” As the baby boomer generation begins to reach retirement age, understanding the realities and benefits of long-term care has never been more important.

Preparing for future costs of health care is something that every American should be doing. Long-term care insurance is one way for Americans to plan for periods of extended disability without burdening their families, going bankrupt, or relying on government assistance.

At least 60 percent of people over age 65 will require some long-term care services at some point in their lives—the personal assistance that enables impaired people to perform daily routines such as eating, bathing, and dressing. This care is expensive, averaging almost \$200 per day for nursing home care, nearly \$80 per day for assisted living and about \$20 per day for home care.

While these costs are astronomical, it is even more stunning how few people realize the true financial impact of requiring long-term care. A 2006 AARP study found that 59 percent of adults who are over 45 overestimate Medicare coverage for long-term care. It is important for people to understand that Medicare does not generally pay for most long-term care services. Therefore, it is important for individuals to start early and plan ahead for long-term care costs as a critical component of their retirement plans.

Various pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress to encourage the purchase of long-term care insurance, including my own legislation, The Long-Term Care Act (H.R. 3088), which allows individuals to use funds from their IRAs or 401(k) plans tax-free and without penalty to purchase long-term care insurance. The government does have an important role to play in encouraging higher utilization of long-term care insurance.

During Long-Term Care Awareness Week, I would encourage all citizens interested in retirement planning to visit www.longtermcare.gov, where the government hosts a national clearinghouse for long-term care information.

HONORING MAJ WILLIAM C. WATSON FOR HIS TIRELESS PATRIOTISM AND UNRELENTING HEROISM

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant services of all peacetime and wartime veterans now residing in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri which I proudly represent. We find in these bravest of men and women the best of what we all wish to be—generous, compassionate, and dedicated. Yet, too often we for-

get that in many of our veterans burn the experiences of the worst our world has to offer, the memory of enduring the atrocities of war for our country. These are America’s patriots—our true heroes. While each of their stories is uniquely American, it is my privilege to share the story of one Missouri veteran who has the distinction of serving in three of our country’s most brutal conflicts.

Twenty-five-year Army veteran MAJ William C. Watson grew up in Marceline, MO. He was recruited by the University of Missouri Football Coach Don Faurot and played in the 1942 Sugar Bowl. While at the University of Missouri, he joined the Army Reserve. Through his ROTC training at the University of Missouri, Major Watson earned the rank of second lieutenant in his infantry unit. Two weeks after the Sugar Bowl, Major Watson found himself in the Army, near the end of World War II. He was stationed in Korea, and upon returning from his tour of duty, Major Watson chose to stay in the Army Reserves. He married Fran, a widow whose first husband was killed in the Philippines during World War II, and settled down as a family man, making a living as a carpenter.

In October 1950, Major Watson received a letter from the United States Army ordering him to report for a physical. He was assigned to Fort Riley, KS, on October 20, 1950, the day Fran and his third child were born. Within 7 short months, on May 15, 1951, he was taken prisoner. He had been engaged in an intense battle against the Chinese. It is reported that the Chinese sent 64,000 troops to attack 3,000 Allied soldiers. For the Chinese, it was a costly battle and has been dubbed the “May Massacre,” as the Chinese lost over 48,000 troops. The Chinese turned over their prisoners to the North Koreans, including Major Watson, and for the next 120 days, the once 300 pound soldier was reduced to a mere 180 pounds. The prisoners were forced into starvation and a devastating 900-mile march through the bitter, piercing cold of winter. Major Watson was stronger than most and, when necessary, carried his fellow prisoners on his back to keep them from being summarily executed. While at “Camp 2,” our man from Missouri fixed a sawmill for his North Korean captors with the ultimate plan to make bunk beds for his fellow POWs in order that they no longer had to sleep on the cold, dirt floor. He succeeded in making 300-bunk beds and saved many lives in the process. Ultimately, the prisoners were returned to the Chinese, under whose control Major Watson spent the remainder of his 837 days in captivity.

Forever dedicated to our Nation, Major Watson chose to remain in the military after the end of the Korean conflict and was once again deployed, this time to Vietnam. After a year in Vietnam, he returned home and retired from the U.S. Army, only to continue his public service as Mayor of Peculiar, MO, for 8 years. Of the 7,190 U.S. prisoners-of-war, 2,730, or 38 percent died, mostly at the hands of the North Koreans.

So traumatic an experience won Major Watson neither a hero’s welcome, nor the respect he deserved upon returning to his station at Ft. Riley, KS. Instead, he was greeted with charges against him of providing comfort to the enemy while a prisoner-of-war, his fate left to a board of inquiry. This insult stemmed from Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy’s accu-

sations that the Army was soft on communists. The board of inquiry gave only vague charges of misconduct, claiming that his actions were treasonous because he did not actively resist the enemy, when it was irrational and futile to do so. Major Watson contacted fellow prisoners, who came to his defense. The board of inquiry never gave Major Watson a verdict, leaving him waiting for 6 months to finally let him know that, while there was no ruling as to his case, he was no longer under the restraints of an inquiry.

Of war, World War II GEN Omar Bradley once said, “the world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.” Madam Speaker, to grow as a Nation, we must learn the stories of our veterans, such as that of Major Watson. I honor him and all veterans today for their patriotism and heroism. Their sacrifices are the heritages that add to the rich tapestry that is our Nation’s history. Please join me in encouraging our Nation to never forget and learn from our veterans’ stories. While we continue to fight, our prayers and deepest gratitude are with those who endeavor for the strength and longevity of our American way of life. Our land of freedom and opportunity, democracy and justice, remains just that because of the service men and women like those in Missouri’s Fifth District who tirelessly engage in the struggles to end that which threatens our stability. Let us honor the selfless sacrifices of our veterans by striving for peace and diplomacy in all that we do. May God continue to bless MAJ William C. Watson and all of our veterans as they remind us of the price we pay for our liberty and the debt owed to those who gave so much of themselves to protect and ensure the prosperity of our great Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE FEDERAL TAX RELIEF TO RECIPIENTS OF DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE HOKIE SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join with my colleagues from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. DRAKE in introducing legislation to exclude from Federal income taxes disbursements from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund received by the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech. Virginia’s Senators are introducing identical legislation in the Senate.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech was of a scale and senselessness which defies explanation. In the days following April 16, 2007, this great tragedy was followed by an even greater outpouring of support for the Virginia Tech community from across the nation. Thousands of individuals and organizations generously contributed sizable donations to assist the victims and their families in their time of need.

The university established the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund as the vehicle to accept and distribute these donations, and last month Virginia Tech disbursed nearly \$7 million from